

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03791 161421Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

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R 161040Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3791

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT ACTIVITY ON ALUMINUM EXTRUSION AND SMELTER PROJECTS.

REF: KUWAIT 3630, SEPT 1, 1974.

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES IN INDUSTRIAL BANK OF KUWAIT (IBK) THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE ATEEQI, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO U.S., DISCUSSED WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF REYNOLDS ALUMINUM CO. NOT ONLY \$2 MILLION ALUMINUM EXTRUSION PROJECT BUT ALSO \$100 MILLION, 140,000 TONS-A-YEAR-CAPACITY, ALUMINUM SMELTING PROJECT AS WELL. UPON HIS RETURN TO KUWAIT, ATEEQI MET WITH IBK OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF REYNOLDS MEETING. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THAT MEETING: REYNOLDS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS IN KUWAIT APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS AGO, BUT HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM GOK. REYNOLDS MANAGEMENT APPARENTLY SEEKING

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03791 161421Z

ASSURANCES FROM SENIOR GOK OFFICIAL LIKE ATEEQI THAT IT SERIOUS

IN REGARDS TO GOING INTO THE ALUMINUM BUSINESS.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY AT THIS TIME UNABLE TO DETERMINE STATUS OF ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT, BUT WILL ENDEAVOR TO LEARN MORE. ATEEQI MEETING WITH REYNOLDS ON SUBJECT IS INTERESTING INDICATION OF CONTINUING GOK INTEREST IN ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT. IT IS ESPECIALLY INTRIGUING IN LIGHT OF ATEEQI'S OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROJECT, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY EMBASSY REFTEL. EVEN IF ATEEQI HIMSELF HAS CHANGED HIS MIND, PROBLEMS WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED.

3. NOT CLEAR HOW LARGER PROJECT WILL AFFECT SMALLER ONE, BUT WE HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE BY IBK OFFICIALS CLOSE TO ALUMINUM EXTRUSION PROJECT THAT DEAL BETWEEN REYNOLDS AND LOCAL PRIVATE KUWAITI INTERESTS WERE ON VERGE OF COMPLETION.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

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